

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DPW-01 NEA-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 270942Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1222

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1037

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, HU, VS

SUBJECT: FONMIN PUJA ON VIETNAM

REF: BUDAPEST 1035

1. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN PUJA, PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH RECENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECISIONS, VIETNAM WAS BRIEF SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION. HE REFERRED TO IT AS A SMALL ISSUE OF SOMEWHAT LESSER IMPORTANCE (THAN MFN AND THE RETURN OF THE CROWN) IN OUR RELATIONS AND DID NOT GO INTO ANY DETAIL.

2. IN RESPONSE I SAID THAT THEIR POSITION ON VIETNAM WAS CONCERN ON OUR SIDE TOO. I NOTED THAT WE HAD SOME RATHER FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS ABOUT THEIR POSITION THERE. BEYOND THAT THERE WAS A QUESTION OF HOW HUNGARY EXPRESSED ITSELF ABOUT US IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. WHEN THERE WAS DIRECT CRITICISM OF US IN A COMMUNIQUE, THIS WAS NOTED IN WASHINGTON; WHEN THERE WAS NOT, AS IN MOST RECENT COMMUNIQUE WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THIS WAS ALSO NOTED. I THOUGHT THIS ELEMENT WAS WORTH THEIR TAKING IN TO ACCOUNT. PUJA REPLIED THAT THE TEXT DEPENDED ON PARTICIPANTS IN THE TALKS SINCE IT REFLECTED THE WISHES AND INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES. HE ASKED WHETHER I HAD SEEN THE WARSAW PACT COMMUNIQUE. I SAID I HAD NOTICED THEY HAD NOT

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REFERRED TO US DIRECTLY.

3. PUJA NODDED AND SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT HE HOPED THAT ISSUES SUCH AS VIETNAM COULD BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM BILATERAL RELATIONS. I RESPONDED THAT WHILE WE DID NOT WISH TO ARTIFICIALLY RAISE ANY PROBLEMS OVER VIETNAM, HE HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT US NATIONAL INTERESTS WERE IMPORTANTLY INVOLVED AND THAT ALL MATTERS ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH IT WERE SENSITIVE IN THE US. PUJA SAID THE ISSUE WAS SENSITIVE IN HUNGARY TOO.

4. COMMENT: IN HIS SUBSEQUENT REMARKS ABOUT VIETNAM IN PARLIAMENT, PUJA CRITICIZED GVN AS BEING ANTI-PARIS AGREEMENT. HIS ONE REFERENCE TO US SAID THAT WE MADE MISTAKE WHEN WE SUPPORTED SAIGON IN SUCH ACTIVITIES. (IN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO VIETNAM IN PARIA ON US RELATIONS, PUJA ALSO SAID GOH WAS RESISTING EFFORTS TO CONNECT THEIR POLICIES ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS).
PEDERSEN

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